

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed September 19, 2008 (hereinafter "Office Action"). In the Office Action, Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,524,104, to Iwata et al. Claims 1-11 have been amended and Claims 12 and 13 are new. Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the application. In light of the claim amendments and the following remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Over Iwata et al.

Independent Claims 1 and 7

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Iwata et al. Figures 1-8, including elements 2a, 9, 12, 15, and 18, of Iwata et al. are relied upon in the Office Action as allegedly teaching the subject matter of independent Claims 1 and 7. For at least the following reasons, applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding independent Claim 1, element 18 in Figure 3A of Iwata et al. is relied upon as allegedly disclosing "a connecting means," as now recited in amended Claim 1. As seen in Figure 3A, however, element 18 connects the lower drive 9 and the upper drive 15 by screws 20 along the sides of the drives 9 and 15. This is distinctly different from what is recited in amended Claim 1. For example, Claim 1 recites, "connecting means attached to the first bottom panel and the top panel or the second bottom panel" of the disk drives. Connecting disk devices on the sides of the drives, as is disclosed in Iwata et al., is not the same as the above feature of Claim 1. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and allowance of the same.

Regarding independent Claim 7, element 18 in Figure 3A of Iwata et al. is also relied upon as allegedly disclosing "a connecting means," as now recited in amended Claim 7. As

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discussed above, element 18 in Figure 3A connects the lower drive 9 and the upper drive 15 by screws 20 along the sides of the drives 9 and 15. There is no disclosure in Iwata et al. of "connecting means attached to the first bottom panel and the top panel or the second bottom panel" of the disk drives, as recited in amended Claim 7. Iwata et al. does not disclose all of the subject matter recited in Claim 7. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 and allowance of the claim.

Dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-11

In the Office Action, dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-11 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Iwata et al. Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-11 are allowable not only for their dependency from allowable independent Claims 1 and 7, but also for the additional subject matter they recite. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-11 and allowance of the same.

New Claims 12 and 13

Applicant submits that newly added Claims 12 and 13, which depend from allowable base Claims 1 and 4, are allowable over Iwata et al. not only for their dependency from allowable base claims, but also for the additional subject matter they recite. For example, Claim 12 recites, "the connecting means fixed to the first bottom panel by at least one screw and at least one portion of the connecting means inserted into at least one slit of the top panel or the second bottom panel." Support for Claim 12 can be found, for example, at lines 11-19 of page 8 and Figure 4 in the specification of the present application. Nowhere in Iwata et al. is there disclosed a "connecting means fixed . . . by at least one screw and . . . at least one slit of the top panel or the second bottom panel," as recited in new Claim 12.

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With respect to Claim 13, for example, there is recited, "the first top surface and the second top surface are opposed to each other." Support for Claim 13 may be found, for example, at page 11, line 25-page 12, line 2, and Figures 10 and 11 in the specification of the present application. Nowhere in Iwata et al. is there disclosed "the first top surface and the second top surface are opposed to each other," as recited in Claim 13.

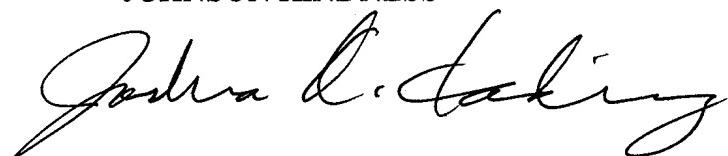
Because Claims 12 and 13 depend from allowable base claims, and for the additional subject matter they recite, applicant respectfully requests allowance of new Claims 12 and 13.

CONCLUSION

In light of the claim amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. Applicant further submits that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed September 19, 2008. If there are any remaining issues that may be resolved by a telephone conference, or if there are informalities that may be corrected by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned counsel at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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